

RECOGNIZING SARGENT SHRIVER WITH CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Congressional Gold Medal resolution for Sargent Shriver who was the first director of the Peace Corps. I do this with my cosponsors, former members of the United States Peace Corps, myself, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

I also do it on behalf of the 163,000 volunteers who have served the United States Government in over 135 countries. I also do this based on what I did Saturday which was to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps here in Washington, but then on Sunday I went to the World Trade Center, ground zero in New York City, so I saw peace on Saturday and war on Sunday.

I view the destruction with a renewed reemphasis in the role of the Peace Corps in order to better understand the world cultures, the world languages and the world differences.

Mr. Speaker, what better way than to authorize the President to present Sargent Shriver with a Congressional Gold Medal to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps in recognition of its founding father.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO TOM BURNETT, JR., A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true American hero. America owes Tom Burnett, Jr., a deep debt of gratitude for his bravery on September 11. Indeed, the Members of this very body may owe their very lives to Tom Burnett, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Burnett, who grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota in the Third Congressional District, which I am privileged to represent, was aboard United Flight 93 on that darkest of days for our Nation. Tom was among the small group of passengers who confronted the hijackers that fateful morning. Department of Defense officials believe Flight 93 was headed for a target here in Washington, most likely the White House or the Capitol.

Tom was able to reach his wife, Deena, on his cell phone from the plane. She told him that other hijacked planes had crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

□ 1900

Tom then told her, and I am quoting, "We've got to do something. I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it."

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what Tom Burnett did. His courage and sacrifice foiled the hijackers' plans of mass destruction. Without regard to his own safety, Tom helped save countless lives.

In recent days, after listening to the tape from the black box, law enforcement officials have described a desperate struggle aboard the plane. As FBI Director Mueller said after being briefed on the contents of the tape, and I am quoting, "We believe those passengers were absolute heroes, and their actions during this flight were heroic."

Mr. Speaker, Tom Burnett, Jr. has shown this kind of selfless leadership many times before. As a quarterback at Thomas Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota, Tom's inspired play led his team to the conference championship game in 1980, the only game they lost that season. The team that beat them won the State title, in fact. He was also a leader in his remarkable business career, as chief operating officer for a medical device manufacturer in California.

No one who knew Tom Burnett is surprised at his heroism.

His football coach in high school, Bruno Waldner, said, "Tom, if anybody, would have the type of character to do that. He didn't get rattled. He took everybody up another level. He was on an average football team that went on to play over their heads. And they almost won a championship."

Another business associate said: "Tom was a man of action. If he knew that he could have any potential bene-

ficial effect and he knew what the odds were, he would have taken action." Another business associate said: "This was very much in character for Tom Burnett. It's just the type of man he was."

Mr. Speaker, such moving testimonials to this great and courageous man have literally come in floods of words and tears in recent days back in Minnesota. At a memorial service last Tuesday night at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Bloomington, I was among the 1,200 mourners who attended and heard many such moving tributes. The streets and parking lot of that church were lined with many other people who could not get into the packed church. Many waved American flags of all sizes. It was very sad. And it was very uplifting.

Mr. Speaker, many people claim America has suffered from a lack of heroes in recent years. Not anymore. Not with Tom Burnett, Jr. to look up to. Like so many heroes of September 11 who gave their lives to help others, from Tom and his fellow passengers on Flight 93, to the police, rescue personnel and firefighters in New York who rushed into those doomed towers and so many others, America has real heroes to remember and to cherish. We must never forget their ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's wonderful family, his loving wife, Deena, their daughters Madison, Halley and Anna-Clair, his parents Thomas Sr. and Beverly of Bloomington, and his sisters Martha O'Brien and Mary Margaret Burnett.

May God bless Tom Burnett and his family. And may God bless America and all the heroes and heroines like Tom Burnett who gave their lives to save others on September 11.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERY AND RETURN OF LUDWIG KOONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to let my colleagues know of my introduction of a concurrent resolution in support of the United States Government becoming actively involved in the recovery and return of Ludwig Koons, a boy who was abducted to Italy by his mother.

Ludwig, son of Jeffrey Koons, an award-winning, internationally renowned artist, was abducted to Italy by his mother, Ilona Staller, on June 9, 1994. Mr. Koons has filed a petition against the Republic of Italy with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and a preliminary decision regarding the admissibility of this petition is expected to be issued by the

court in October 2001. I have respectfully requested that both the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State file briefs in the European Court of Human Rights supporting Mr. Koons' petition, pursuant to article 36 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, which states the United States has a right to intervene in proceedings before the European court in Strasbourg, promoted by its citizens seeking relief from human rights violations.

On May 29, 2001, Mrs. Staller was convicted in Italy for kidnapping their minor son, Ludwig, from his family residence in New York on June 9, 1994. In addition, with a judgment dated May 31, 2001, this year, Mrs. Staller was found guilty by the Rome Tribunal of repeated acts of defamation through the media against Mr. Koons. The delays of the Italian judicial authorities in finding Mrs. Staller guilty of international child kidnapping were instrumental in allowing the mother to retain custody of Ludwig in Italy illegitimately.

Authorities have not taken into consideration the judgment of divorce entered by the New York Supreme Court, which had exclusive jurisdiction to decide the parties' custody dispute. The decision of the Italian judicial authorities to prohibit Ludwig, a native American citizen, from exercising his right of access to the United States, even for temporary visits, in order to maintain meaningful relations with his father and his paternal family is in violation of international principles of law and treaties to the detriment of a U.S. minor.

My resolution states that the United States should request that the Italian Republic immediately return Ludwig Maximilian Koons to the custody of the father in the United States as established by the judgment of divorce in the Supreme Court of New York of December 9, 1994. Pending a final decision by the Republic of Italy regarding the permanent return of Ludwig to the United States, the United States should also request that Italy authorize Ludwig to visit his father in his New York residence on a temporary basis.

As an American citizen, Ludwig has a right to preserve his identity, his nationality, and his family relations and to be raised by the parent who can best assure him a sound and healthy environment.

OH SAY CAN WE SEE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, lying aboard a British warship in Baltimore Harbor, Francis Scott Key listened through the night as shells rained down on Fort McHenry. The small, undermanned garrison suddenly

found itself under the attack of the greatest Navy in the world. One thousand American soldiers were charged with the daunting task of defending Fort McHenry against 30 British warships and thousands of enemy ground troops. The bombs fell for 25 straight hours. Many hit their target. Others burst overhead, raining shrapnel on the soldiers below. When the rocket explosions ceased on the morning of September 14, 1814, Key surely thought that Fort McHenry had been taken.

Straining to see through the smoke that hung over the water in the early morning light, Key wiped away tears to see the Stars and Stripes still flying defiantly over that battered fort. The Americans had achieved the unthinkable. They had bravely held their position against all odds. The magnificent sight moved Key to pen the words that have stirred American hearts ever since, the Star-Spangled Banner.

Two weeks ago, 187 years after the defense of Fort McHenry, our Nation stared in horror at the smoke hanging over New York City and Washington, D.C. We looked on in disbelief as the towers of the World Trade Center crumbled before our very eyes. Yet out of the destruction shone a beacon of hope. Wiping tears from our eyes, we watched modern heroes, New York's firefighters, raising the Stars and Stripes atop the mountain of rubble. The comparison to Iwo Jima is inescapable.

Madam Speaker, the attack on America was not an attempt to defeat our Army. It was an organized plan to destroy the lives of innocent Americans. It was a direct assault on the American spirit. The terrorists succeeded in killing thousands of our fellow citizens, but they can never kill the American spirit.

Napoleon once said, "The great soldiers run to the sound of the guns." Consider the heroism of the passengers aboard United Flight 93 who attacked their hijackers. They saved thousands of lives on the ground and perhaps the most precious symbols of our Nation. We will never forget the firefighters who gave their lives when they courageously rushed into the burning towers as others streamed out. Now we see the quiet heroism of rescue workers who continue to dig tirelessly through the rubble in hopes of finding just one survivor. These Americans stand on the shoulders of the defenders of Fort McHenry.

Throughout our history, many adversaries have underestimated the steely resolve of the American spirit. They underestimate us now. We have been called to action, to demonstrate the virtues that make this a great Nation. At a similar hour, Winston Churchill said, "Do not let us speak of darker days. Let us speak, rather, of sterner days. These are not dark days. These are great days, the greatest days our country has ever lived. We must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to

play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race."

Madam Speaker, as we declare war on terrorism around the world, the American flag will inspire us just as it inspired Francis Scott Key. It will serve as a notice to our adversaries. Though bruised and bloodied, we remain unbowed. The authors of terror may never understand the words of our national anthem, but they will come to understand the spirit that it embodies. We will turn our rage into moral outrage. When the dust of battle clears, America will remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Madam Speaker, to victory. May God bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. KERNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KERNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATSON of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)